



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Climate Issues Committee Meeting Report 05/17/2010

- The Department is working with several different Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (Plains and Prairie Pothole, Great Northern and Great Plains) in their initial development/implementation stages to come up with recommended research topics/funding priorities, RFP ranking criteria, general LCC formation, etc.
 - The focus of the LCC's work will be on climate change. Including model downscaling, potential effects on water yield and habitat changes and connectivity. The LCC's are also trying to collaborate with existing landscape efforts, joint ventures, Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, etc.
- Amanda Losch was hired to work with Glenn Pauley, SWAP Coordinator, on the revision of the SWAP. She will assist with the development of a climate change strategy for incorporation into the plan this year. She is collecting information, reviewing literature, and consulting experts and other interested parties regarding climate change in the west and what uncertainties still exist and will begin to draft a document for our Department Administration and Habitat Advisory Group. She is also assisting with identification of climate change research priorities to recommend to the Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC.
- Thanks to the help of Dr. Steve Gray, the Department was able to participate in a climate change workshop January 12th and 13th in Casper. This was a great workshop and we were able to come up with a variety of aquatic and terrestrial "Potential Management Options." A few of our "Potential Management Options" include:
 - Manage for or against fish passage as appropriate
 - Control of invasive species
 - Maintain functioning floodplains
 - Change stocking time/season for stocking trout
 - Consider climate change when planning and implementing native species restoration projects
 - Coordinate with water users to promote effective water management
 - Maintain riparian habitat, increase ability to trap snow
 - Minimize disturbances that facilitate cheatgrass invasion (fire, roads, energy, etc)
 - Increase public outreach a. Important (public perception of climate change a concern)
 - Hone climate change message to stakeholders (drought, irrigation, etc.)
 - Strengthen relationships with permittees and land management agencies